

that is out there about vaccines and masking—we had a hearing in Hartford where we had people up there saying that the authorization from the FDA was only for the German vaccine, not the American Pfizer vaccine, which is ridiculous. That stuff is out there, but we have overcome that.

Again, the numbers speak for themselves in terms of that success.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to make sure that we keep this priority number one, two, and three because that is how we recover our economy, and that is how we recover a normal life in this country. So, let's work together.

□ 1015

CONGRATULATING THE CHARLESTON RIVERDOGS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from South Carolina (Ms. MACE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. MACE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Charleston RiverDogs on a defining victory in the Low-A East championship series this week. This 9-2 win is the City of Charleston's first minor league baseball title in 99 years and the first in franchise history for the Charleston RiverDogs.

The Charleston RiverDogs are a Lowcountry staple and are a vital part of our tourism and hospitality industries.

This team worked extremely hard during their record-breaking season and showed great determination while representing our beloved Charleston.

I am excited for the opportunity to go back-to-back, like Jordan in 1996 and 1997.

RECOGNIZING LAMBS FOR LIFE

Ms. MACE. Madam Speaker, I rise in recognition of Lambs for Life and its founders, Alex and Brandon Arrieta.

On April 25, 2016, Alex Arrieta, age 10, was told his cancer was gone and a bone marrow transplant was scheduled for the next month. The very next day Alex passed away.

In honor of Alex's favorite childhood toy, Lamby, his parents founded Lambs for Life. Lambs for Life delivers Lamby Packs filled with toys and a stuffed lamb for Child Life departments of children's hospitals, brightening the days of thousands of pediatric cancer patients.

Lambs for Life, led by Alex's dad, Brandon, has spent the last 5 years working with Congress and the White House to bring focus and solutions to pediatric cancer.

I commend Brandon for working through his grief at the loss of two sons to make our country better.

RECOGNIZING DEAN STEPHENS

Ms. MACE. Madam Speaker, I rise in recognition of Dean Stephens, a local news anchor, who is retiring after 31 years with ABC News 4.

Generations of Lowcountry families have welcomed Dean into their living

rooms. I grew up with Dean, watching him in the Lowcountry. His first job with the station was as a weekend sportscaster, and he would eventually become a news anchor.

Dean's presence on our televisions will be greatly missed by our community. I wish him well on his much-deserved retirement.

RECOGNIZING PORTER-GAUD SCHOOL STUDENTS

Ms. MACE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the great work done by some amazing students at Porter-Gaud School in Charleston.

Last month, as part of the school's Senior Day for Caring, 100 Porter-Gaud seniors packaged over 20,000 meals for the James Island Outreach Center and One80 Place, feeding the hungry across the Charleston area. They also packaged over 350 hygiene kits to take care of our fleeing Afghan allies seeking refuge right here in the United States.

The leaders of these nonprofits tell me the tremendous work these students did saved them thousands of dollars in manufacturing costs, not to mention the good works that they are doing for our community.

REMEMBERING LUCILLE WHIPPER

Ms. MACE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of former South Carolina State Representative Lucille Whipper.

Dr. Whipper was the first African-American woman elected to the South Carolina State House from Charleston County. She served her community as an activist during the civil rights movement. She was a teacher and a guidance counselor. She was also an administrator in Charleston County public schools. Dr. Whipper was also the first African-American administrator at the College of Charleston, where she developed the school's diversity program all the way back as early as the 1970s.

Dr. Whipper will be greatly missed, but her influence will live on in our community. We thank her for her leadership, and we offer our sincerest condolences for her family during this time.

SUPPORT FOR THE INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT AND JOBS ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Kansas (Ms. DAVIDS) for 5 minutes.

Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. It would bring billions of dollars to much-needed infrastructure projects in my home State, from bridges to broadband, and it does so without raising taxes on people who make less than \$400,000 a year.

As I have said before, this bill is not absolutely perfect, but it is absolutely necessary. It is a product of compromise. That is, at the end of the day, what legislating often means.

In the district I represent, this bill has received a remarkable amount of

support, including everyone from labor unions to local chambers of commerce to climate groups. They are joined by national organizations like the National Association of Manufacturers, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, and hundreds of labor and trade associations.

I urge my colleagues to listen to their communities who are calling for these investments and not to give in to the Washington machine that so often turns shared bipartisan goals into political games.

This bill reminds me of the last time that we saw this level of investment in America's infrastructure, when President Eisenhower, who was from Kansas, recognized an opportunity to rebuild the economy and create jobs through infrastructure. We were then, as we are today, in a challenging time defined by a national crisis and economic difficulty.

I believe, as Eisenhower did, that infrastructure is key to building long-term economic growth. At the end of the day, infrastructure is made up of many everyday systems that connect us to one another and broaden opportunities.

If we don't invest in the health of those systems, whether it is the safety of highways like U.S. 69 in the district I get to represent, or access to high-speed internet in areas across Kansas, both urban and rural, we pay the price, and it is not just in the ways we might think.

We feel the impact of past decades of underinvestment in infrastructure, in our economy, in our educational systems, in the health of our kids, and in the health of our planet.

That is why this bill is absolutely necessary because infrastructure touches so many parts of our lives and the lives of our future generations. This bipartisan bill boosts American competitiveness, tackles climate change, and advances equity now and into the future. It is projected to create 2 million jobs per year for the next decade, with fair wage requirements written into the text.

Independent studies have shown that the investments in this bill will have multiplier effects on the economy, improving productivity and boosting economic output without increasing inflation. This infrastructure bill is large, but so is the problem.

There are immediate infrastructure needs, from roads and bridges to public transit and rail, waterways, and airports. All of these need attention. This bill will undoubtedly bring the Federal funding needed to address those issues here in the near term, and it makes significant progress toward longer-term goals, like replacing lead pipes so that every child can have access to clean drinking water or promoting Buy American provisions that create good-paying jobs for both construction and production of materials or modernizing our electric grid to prevent blackouts, like the ones we saw in Kansas and those we saw in Texas earlier this year.

For people sitting in traffic on U.S. 69 or waiting for the bus in Wyandotte County or wondering why that one road floods every single year no matter how many times we fix it, this cannot wait. Not to mention, if we fail to act, critical surface transportation authorizations are going to run out by Friday.

I urge my colleagues to set aside gamesmanship and not see this as an opportunity for political points but instead an opportunity to deliver for our communities, the opportunity that our communities have been asking for us to deliver on.

THE BIDEN ECONOMIC AND SPENDING CRISIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah (Mr. OWENS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. OWENS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to continue sounding the alarm on the Biden Administration's economic and spending crisis that is hurting families in my district and killing American jobs.

This Big Government, ultra-inflation, and massive spending agenda has a big problem: the economy. It is spiking the price of groceries, gas, lumber, and everything in between.

Gasoline is up 42.7 percent. Chicken is up 7.2 percent. Eggs are up 9.9 percent. Public transportation is up 8.4 percent.

As I have heard from my families all across my district, Americans cannot afford this.

Utahns say they are paying more for just about everything. In fact, a recent statewide poll found that 85 percent of Utahns are very or somewhat concerned about inflation and rising costs.

Inflation is a tax on every single American.

With consumer prices reaching a 13-year high, it is clear this administration's agenda is bad for economic recovery and unsustainable for working-class Americans trying to make ends meet.

The Democrats' solution? Rush through the most expensive piece of legislation in the history of our country.

Another startling fact: This \$3.5 trillion spending plan is more than the GDP of Canada and Mexico combined.

While the White House continues to spread false realities to the American people, let's talk about the facts: The true cost of the bill is \$5.5 trillion, not \$3.5 trillion, and certainly not zero. It is going to increase the national debt by \$2.4 trillion. It will lead to 5.3 million jobs lost nationwide. The median family income will drop by \$12,000. Each American household will be burdened with \$35,439 of debt.

Americans across the country and Utahns in the Fourth District want to see fiscal responsibility restored at the Federal level. This out-of-control spending must stop.

HONORING LIVES LOST TO SENSELESS VIOLENCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. BOWMAN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BOWMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the lives of those lost due to senseless violence in my district:

Leon Wayne, age 26, gun violence.
Chevor Williams, age 28, gun violence.

Cori Lowe, age 31, stabbing victim.
Richard Black, age 39, gun violence.
Joseph Ramirez, age 43, gun violence.
Wray Harding, age 55, gun violence.
Aliyah Waiters, age 18, gun violence.
Marilyn Cotto Montanez, age 18, gun violence.

Guy Vanlew, Jr., age 18, gun violence.
Jeremy Logan, age 32, gun violence.
Omari Ellis, age 18, gun violence.
Warren Clahar, age 35, gun violence.
Olivia Green, age 15, fentanyl overdose.

Madam Speaker, I ask that we observe a moment of silence for the lives lost in my district due to senseless violence.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, the pandemic of senseless violence is not new. If you live in a poverty-stricken community and if you are Black or Latino in these communities, you are more susceptible to acts of senseless violence.

When I was in high school, trying to just be a good student and play on the football team, I ended up caught up in a situation where I was almost shot and killed. A few months later, at a party with some friends, just trying to go out and have a good time, I ended up in a situation where I was almost shot and killed.

If it weren't for sheer luck, I would not be standing here as a Member of Congress today.

Thankfully, at that time, I was able to move out of my community and move to a suburban community where it was much less likely for me to end up in a situation where I could be shot and killed.

I have so many friends and family members who did not have the luxury of moving out and the privilege of moving out of their community. As a result, they ended up dead at some very young ages, some 18, some 21, some even younger.

Oftentimes, when we have these conversations, we point to the perpetrators of these acts of violence and of these crimes and we identify them as bad individuals and we say that we need law enforcement to respond to remove those bad individuals from these situations, and we think that that method is enough to end the violence in these communities.

But we have invested in law enforcement for decades; the 1994 crime bill being one example of how we have made such investments and targeted highly violent communities. But the violence hasn't gone away, and the violence has only been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic that has isolated

many and has also created a mental health crisis.

So I ask and I beg this Chamber to recognize that this is not just about individual bad actors in communities. Poverty is a policy choice, and the trauma related to poverty and the lack of opportunity in so many of our communities will continue to lead to increases in violence that we see in poverty-stricken communities.

□ 1030

We have to invest in education, healthcare, jobs, housing, mentorship, and so many other programs that could literally save the lives of our children before they ever decide to pick up a gun.

Lastly, and very quickly, we passed H.R. 8, commonsense gun reform legislation, in the House this year, and the Senate still has not acted on that legislation. Seventy percent of the incidents of gun violence that take place in New York are done with guns that come from outside of New York. So we have to move this gun legislation in the Senate.

BIDEN'S CRISES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Washington (Mr. NEWHOUSE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Madam Speaker, this week we learned that either President Biden ignored the advice of his top military advisers and lied to shift the blame for his disastrous Afghanistan withdrawal or that those advisers lied to Congress under oath.

General McKenzie and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Milley both informed the Senate and House Armed Services Committees that they recommended to President Biden that we keep 2,500 troops in Afghanistan. Yet President Biden has adamantly claimed that he never received such advice.

Americans have been abandoned, left to the mercy of a terrorist regime that wants to destroy Western culture and institutionalize widespread and systemic gender apartheid.

Our military weapons and equipment have been turned over to our adversaries for their use against us.

And our President continues to negotiate with terrorists after our servicemen and -women have been murdered.

Every last American must make it home. Anything less is inexcusable and a dereliction of his sworn oath.

The President's lack of leadership is not only failing us abroad, but it is also threatening our safety here at home. Just this year more than 1.3 million people have illegally crossed our border, including known terrorists.

An open southern border threatens our national security and the safety of all Americans, and I hope we can all agree that we must do something to stop this disturbing trend.

The President has a duty to act. Our Federal Government must enforce our